

## Stephan Clark shares a heart warming visit with folks sharing Christian values with folks outside religious affiliation



Hello Folks,

Anna & I have just returned from several weeks in Peru and I just wanted to share an amazing little experience we had while there, in the most unlikely of places!

We spent a week or so in the little city of Iquitos in the heart of the Amazon Jungle (largest city in the world that cannot be accessed by road..... just by boat on the Amazon River and they now have a little airport.

While there, we hired a guide to take us for a 2 day boat ride along the Amazon River and hiking into the jungle. We camped in the jungle and as we hiked through the jungle, we came across a little group of about 20 shanties built on stilts (the Amazon River in this area is about 3/4 mile across in the dry season when we were there, but grows by miles in the wet). Our guide knew a family there, so he climbed the ladder up to one of the shanties and motioned for me to follow. In the shanty, I met a woman in her 50's, her mother and father (in their mid 70's) and then my eyes fell on the tiniest little leathery old woman that I have ever seen, sitting at the old board table, hands folded and praying. The family invited Anna and I to sit at the old table and I asked the old woman (in Spanish) how old she was but her 76 year old daughter said that she doesn't speak

Spanish, just the local dialect but she is almost completely deaf now. She then told me that her mother is 103 years old and that she has never been out of the "Selva" (jungle) in her life.

The rest of the family spoke Spanish, so I asked them who was she praying to (a lot of Shaman style worship in this region) and they replied that she was praying to God, of course! They then explained that a group of Christian missionaries (no one remembers what denomination) had spent some time there many years ago (the 76 yr old daughter remembers them as a little girl) and that they had spent some time teaching her about God. She has been praying to Him ever since. There is no Bible in her dialect and she has only been in a church once or twice when she visited Iquitos years ago, but she has never lost her faith in God.

I have a question for this group..... Do you think God sees this little sparrow??

She has never met a worker

She has never had the Good news preached to her by workers

She has never been in a Gospel meeting, and has never "made her choice" by standing to her feet in a "tested" meeting

She has never read a Bible

She has never been to a convention or special meeting

She has never been in contact with the "workers and friends"

Yet she has such apparent faith in God that she prays to Him daily (many times) and looks forward to the day when she will join Him.

My heart and mind has returned to that little shanty so many times each day since we met this little sparrow of a woman and I am so humbled because of the years that I have wasted following the "form" and "doctrines" that have nothing to do with Salvation while this little sparrow has just humbly been being led by the VERY SAME SPIRIT that is just waiting to lead me, if only I would just get out of the way and let It lead.

It was just such a heart filling experience that I thought I would share it with you all.

Learn to be still!